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Remarks on the
preservation of the
Teeth ***



REMARKS

ON THE

PRESERVATION OF THE TEETH,

WITH DIRECTIONS FOR USING

*CHARLES WHITE'S ABSORBENT
TOOTH POWDER.*

KEEPING the teeth clean is indispensable to their preservation. By suffering the particles of food and other impurities which are constantly collecting about them, to remain, is to favour the production and operation of those causes which effect their ruin. Whatever, therefore, is best suited to keep them clean, without the power of injuring them, is also best calculated to prevent their discoloration and decay.

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The same causes which produce caries of the teeth, tend likewise to injure the gums and breath, rendering the latter offensive, and the former spongy,—detaching them from the teeth. Most of the imported dentrifices, and those whose composition is kept secret, possess some acid property, or grinding power, which hurts the teeth by corroding or abrading the enamel, or protecting surface of them, leaving the comparatively soft and bony part within, to turn black and perish, without the possibility of its being restored to a sound state. These tooth powders often give the teeth an unnatural whiteness and brilliancy, very pleasing at first, before their real character and effects have been suspected.

All that any preparation of this sort was ever intended to accomplish, by any one except an impostor, is to keep the teeth clean—of a natural whiteness, the gums sound, and the breath sweet. These effects

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the “Absorbent Tooth Powder” is perfectly well suited to produce, without its possessing any quality which can, in any length of time, or freedom of use, occasion the smallest injury of any kind. From its well known property of sweetening putrid and offensive substances, *charcoal* has latterly been much commended, and by many used as a dentifrice. After some time, however, its particles were found to possess a grinding power, which, in a few years, or even sooner, if applied often enough to keep the teeth clean, would wear off the enamel.— Since this fact has been ascertained, reflecting people begin to prefer something else, equally purifying, and much more safe.*

* For further information on this subject, and other interesting particulars, relating to the teeth, the reader is referred to “A Treatise on the Management of the Teeth, by B. JAMES, M. M. S. S.” Boston, 1814.

TOOTH BRUSHES.

The brush with which this powder is to be applied, should be sufficiently large and firm, and the hairs not too closely placed. One reason for preferring hard brushes, is, that they become softer by use, and another is, that if not pretty stiff, they are not firm enough to clean the teeth thoroughly.

They are never too hard, unless they are so unyielding as to insinuate themselves between the teeth and gums, so as to separate them ; this being guarded against, the stiffer they are the better.

Having provided ourselves with the Tooth powder and brush, the next inquiry is, how are they to be used ?

The mouth should be rinsed with cold water, and the brush dipped into it before

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the powder is used. A quantity of the powder should then be taken up on the end of the brush, and applied to every part of each tooth, not only to the anterior surface of the front teeth, but the brush covered with the dentifrice, should be successively applied to the inner surface of the upper and lower teeth, and also to their ends.

The last motions of the brush should be carried from the gums to the ends of the teeth, in the direction of their length. This serves to elongate the gum, and to spread its points more elegantly over the enamel.

The best time for using the Tooth Powder, is after breakfast ; and this should be done once every day. In addition to this, we should be careful to cleanse the mouth with the brush and water, or to rinse it with water merely, after every meal ; and this should be particularly attended to before going to rest, otherwise the foulness which is too often permitted to accumulate through

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the whole day, cannot be prevented from committing its ravages during the night.

The same grateful and refreshing sensations which result from bathing the surface of the body, arise also from a proper attention to the mouth. No one who neglects the latter, can be said to be personally neat ; nor can any one who omits this necessary attention to himself, justly expect the *voluntary* attentions of others.

After these Remarks and Directions were written by a medical friend, who has paid much attention to the Teeth, the following Recommendation of the dentifrice was obtained, which I am happy to annex to them.

C. W.

The subscribers having been made acquainted with the composition of Mr. C. WHITE's *Absorbent Tooth Powder*, and having fully tried the same, cheerfully re-

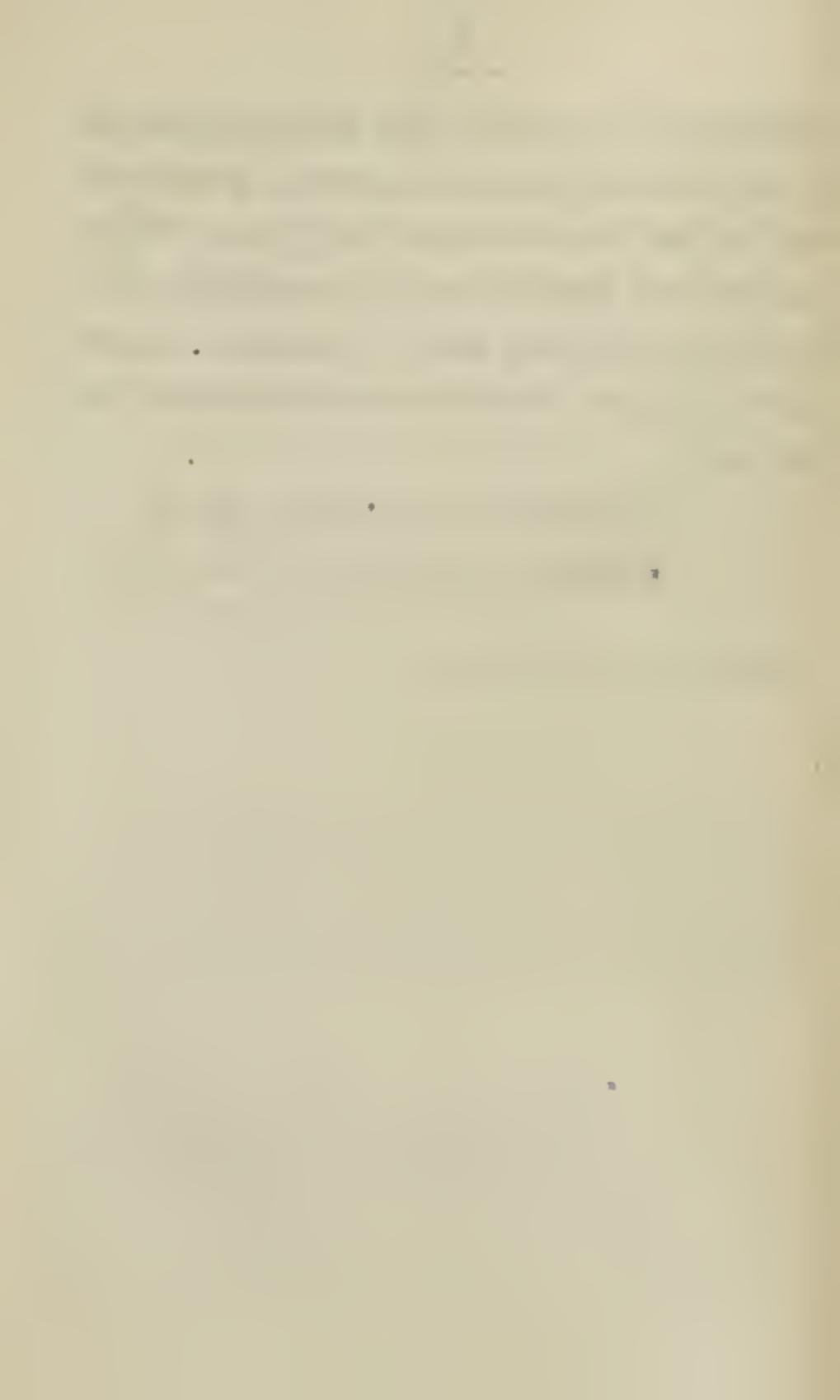
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commend it, as much the best preparation of the kind they have ever seen. It is very well suited to answer all the good purposes the best Dentifrice can accomplish, and is wholly free from those deleterious qualities which are too common in articles of this sort.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D.
BENJ. JAMES, M. M. S. S.

BOSTON, APRIL, 1816.

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